

Claims

- [c1] 1. A firetrain for a safe and arm device having a safe position and an armed position, the firetrain comprising:
an input explosive column having a longitudinal axis;
a transfer charge having a longitudinal axis and first and second ends and movable from a safe position to an armed position;
a receptor charge having a longitudinal axis that is non-collinear with and substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the input explosive column;
wherein, in the safe position, the transfer charge is remote from both the input explosive column and the receptor charge; and
wherein, in the armed position, the input explosive column is adjacent the first end of the transfer charge to thereby initiate the transfer charge, the longitudinal axis of the input explosive column is substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the transfer charge, the second end of the transfer charge is adjacent the receptor charge to thereby initiate the receptor charge and the longitudinal axis of the receptor charge is substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the transfer charge.

- [c2] 2. The firetrain of claim 1 wherein a total volume of explosives in the input explosive column, the transfer charge and the receptor charge is less than about 0.002 cubic centimeters.
- [c3] 3. The firetrain of claim 1 wherein a total volume of explosives in the input explosive column and the transfer charge is less than about 0.0012 cubic centimeters.
- [c4] 4. The firetrain of claim 1 wherein a total volume of explosives in the input explosive column is less than about 0.001 cubic centimeters.
- [c5] 5. The firetrain of claim 1 wherein the transfer charge consists of secondary explosives.
- [c6] 6. The firetrain of claim 1 wherein the receptor charge consists of secondary explosives.
- [c7] 7. The firetrain of claim 1 wherein the input explosive column comprises first, second and third charges, the first charge initiating the second charge, the second charge initiating the third charge and the third charge initiating the transfer charge.
- [c8] 8. The firetrain of claim 7 wherein the first charge consists of primary explosive, the second charge consists of primary explosive and the third charge consists of sec-

ondary explosive.

- [c9] 9. The firetrain of claim 1 further comprising:
 - a spot charge disposed adjacent the input explosive column, for initiating the input explosive column;
 - an initiator chip disposed adjacent the spot charge, for initiating the spot charge; and
 - an output charge disposed adjacent the receptor charge, the receptor charge initiating the output charge.
- [c10] 10. A safe and arm assembly, comprising:
 - the firetrain of claim 9;
 - a base assembly having the output charge and a first portion of the receptor charge disposed therein;
 - a safe and arm device layer disposed atop the base assembly, the safe and arm device layer including an arming mechanism movable between a safe position and an armed position, the transfer charge being disposed in the arming mechanism and a second portion of the receptor charge being disposed in the safe and arm device layer;
 - a cover plate assembly disposed atop the safe and arm device layer and having the input explosive column disposed therein; and
 - an initiator board assembly disposed atop the cover plate assembly and having the spot charge and the initiator chip disposed therein.

- [c11] 11. The safe and arm assembly of claim 10 wherein a total volume of explosives in the input explosive column, the transfer charge and the receptor charge is less than about 0.002 cubic centimeters.
- [c12] 12. The safe and arm assembly of claim 10 wherein a total volume of explosives in the input explosive column and the transfer charge is less than about 0.0012 cubic centimeters.
- [c13] 13. The safe and arm assembly of claim 10 wherein a total volume of explosives in the input explosive column is less than about 0.001 cubic centimeters.
- [c14] 14. The safe and arm assembly of claim 10 wherein the transfer charge consists of secondary explosives.
- [c15] 15. The safe and arm assembly of claim 10 wherein the receptor charge consists of secondary explosives.
- [c16] 16. The safe and arm assembly of claim 10 wherein the input explosive column comprises first, second and third charges, the first charge initiating the second charge, the second charge initiating the third charge and the third charge initiating the transfer charge.
- [c17] 17. The safe and arm assembly of claim 16 wherein the first charge consists of primary explosive, the second

charge consists of primary explosive and the third charge consists of secondary explosive.

- [c18] 18. A firetrain for a safe and arm device having a safe position and an armed position, the firetrain comprising:
an input explosive column having a longitudinal axis;
an input charge having a longitudinal axis and first and second ends, the input explosive column being substantially perpendicular to and adjacent the first end of the input charge;
a transfer charge having a longitudinal axis and first and second ends and movable from a safe position to an armed position;
a receptor charge having a longitudinal axis that is substantially collinear with the longitudinal axis of the input charge;
wherein, in the safe position, the transfer charge is remote from both the input charge and the receptor charge; and
wherein, in the armed position, the second end of the input charge is adjacent the first end of the transfer charge to thereby initiate the transfer charge, the longitudinal axis of the input charge is substantially collinear with the longitudinal axis of the transfer charge, the second end of the transfer charge is adjacent the receptor charge to thereby initiate the receptor charge and the

longitudinal axis of the receptor charge is substantially collinear with the longitudinal axis of the transfer charge.

- [c19] 19. The firetrain of claim 18 wherein the input charge, transfer charge and receptor charge are substantially a same size.
- [c20] 20. The firetrain of claim 18 wherein the transfer charge consists of secondary explosives.
- [c21] 21. The firetrain of claim 18 wherein the receptor charge consists of secondary explosives.
- [c22] 22. The firetrain of claim 18 wherein the input explosive column comprises first, second and third charges, the first charge initiating the second charge, the second charge initiating the third charge and the third charge initiating the input charge.
- [c23] 23. The firetrain of claim 22 wherein the first charge consists of primary explosive, the second charge consists of primary explosive and the third charge consists of secondary explosive.
- [c24] 24. The firetrain of claim 18 further comprising: a spot charge disposed adjacent the input explosive column, for initiating the input explosive column;

an initiator chip disposed adjacent the spot charge, for initiating the spot charge; and
an output charge disposed adjacent the receptor charge, the receptor charge initiating the output charge.

- [c25] 25. A safe and arm assembly, comprising:
- the firetrain of claim 24;
 - a base assembly;
 - a safe and arm device layer disposed atop the base assembly, the safe and arm device layer including an arming mechanism movable between a safe position and an armed position, the transfer charge being disposed in the arming mechanism and the input charge and receptor charge being disposed in the safe and arm device layer;
 - a cover plate assembly disposed atop the safe and arm device layer and having the input explosive column disposed therein; and
 - an initiator board assembly disposed atop the cover plate assembly and having the spot charge and the initiator chip disposed therein.
- [c26] 26. A firetrain for a safe and arm device having a safe position and an armed position, the firetrain comprising:
- an input explosive column having a longitudinal axis;
 - an input charge having a longitudinal axis and first and second ends, the input explosive column being substan-

tially perpendicular to and adjacent the first end of the input charge;

a transfer charge having a longitudinal axis and first and second ends and movable from a safe position to an armed position;

a receptor charge having a longitudinal axis that is substantially collinear with the longitudinal axis of the input charge;

wherein, in the safe position, the transfer charge is remote from both the input charge and the receptor charge; and

wherein, in the armed position, the second end of the input charge overlaps the first end of the transfer charge to thereby initiate the transfer charge, the longitudinal axis of the input charge is substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the transfer charge, the receptor charge overlaps the second end of the transfer charge to thereby initiate the receptor charge and the longitudinal axis of the receptor charge is substantially parallel with the longitudinal axis of the transfer charge.

- [c27] 27. The firetrain of claim 26 further comprising:
- a spot charge disposed adjacent the input explosive column, for initiating the input explosive column;
- an initiator chip disposed adjacent the spot charge, for initiating the spot charge; and

an output charge disposed adjacent the receptor charge, the receptor charge initiating the output charge.

- [c28] 28. A safe and arm assembly, comprising:
- the firetrain of claim 27;
 - a base assembly having the output charge disposed therein;
 - a safe and arm device layer disposed atop the base assembly, the safe and arm device layer including an arming mechanism movable between a safe position and an armed position, the transfer charge being disposed in the arming mechanism;
 - a cover plate assembly disposed atop the safe and arm device layer and having the input explosive column, the input charge and receptor charge disposed therein; and an initiator board assembly disposed atop the cover plate assembly and having the spot charge and the initiator chip disposed therein.
- [c29] 29. A firetrain for a safe and arm device having a safe position and an armed position, the firetrain comprising:
- an input explosive row having a longitudinal axis;
 - a transfer charge having a longitudinal axis and first and second ends and movable from a safe position to an armed position;
 - a receptor charge having a longitudinal axis that is substantially collinear with the longitudinal axis of the input

explosive row;
wherein, in the safe position, the transfer charge is remote from both the input explosive row and the receptor charge; and
wherein, in the armed position, the input explosive row is adjacent the first end of the transfer charge to thereby initiate the transfer charge, the longitudinal axis of the input explosive row is substantially collinear with the longitudinal axis of the transfer charge, the second end of the transfer charge is adjacent the receptor charge to thereby initiate the receptor charge and the longitudinal axis of the transfer charge is substantially collinear with the longitudinal axis of the receptor charge.

- [c30] 30. The firetrain of claim 29 wherein the transfer charge consists of secondary explosives.
- [c31] 31. The firetrain of claim 29 wherein the receptor charge consists of secondary explosives.
- [c32] 32. The firetrain of claim 29 wherein the input explosive row comprises first, second and third charges, the first charge initiating the second charge, the second charge initiating the third charge and the third charge initiating the transfer charge.
- [c33] 33. The firetrain of claim 32 wherein the first charge

consists of primary explosive, the second charge consists of primary explosive and the third charge consists of secondary explosive.

- [c34] 34. The firetrain of claim 29 further comprising:
- a spot charge disposed adjacent and perpendicular to the input explosive row, for initiating the input explosive row;
 - an initiator chip disposed adjacent the spot charge, for initiating the spot charge; and
 - an output charge disposed adjacent the receptor charge, the receptor charge initiating the output charge.
- [c35] 35. A safe and arm assembly, comprising:
- the firetrain of claim 34;
 - an output housing that contains the output charge;
 - a safe and arm device layer disposed in the output housing, the safe and arm device layer including an arming mechanism movable between a safe position and an armed position, the transfer charge being disposed in the arming mechanism, the input explosive row and the receptor charge being disposed in the safe and arm device layer; and an initiator board assembly disposed atop the safe and arm device layer and having the spot charge and the initiator chip disposed therein.